

TOP SECRET

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



**MILITARY ACTIVITY
DAMANSKY (CHENPAO)
ISLAND AREA
SINO-SOVIET BORDER**

TCS-20037/70

JANUARY 70

COPY 120

5 PAGES

PIM-005/70

handle via **TALENT-KEYHOLE** control only

Declass Review by NIMA /
DoD

GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET

WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws U. S. Code Title 18, Sections 793 and 794. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States. It is to be seen only by personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive information in the designated control channels. Its security must be maintained in accordance with regulations pertaining to TALENT-KEYHOLE Control System.

TOP SECRET RUFF

TCS-20037/70

MILITARY ACTIVITY DAMANSKY (CHENPAO) ISLAND AREA,
SINO-SOVIET BORDER

Since the Chinese-Soviet armed clash at Damansky (Chenpao) Island (Figure 1) in early March 1969, the Chinese have improved their overall defensive posture in the skirmish area. This activity includes the construction of defensive lines, strongpoints, tent camps, trenches, and artillery emplacements. The most significant Soviet activity since the clashes in 1969 has been the construction of a new access road from the Ussuri River village of Nizhne-Mikhaylovskiy (46-26N 133-54E) in the skirmish area to the main north-south highway at Ignatyevka (46-24N 134-08E). Several other roads in the skirmish area have been improved.

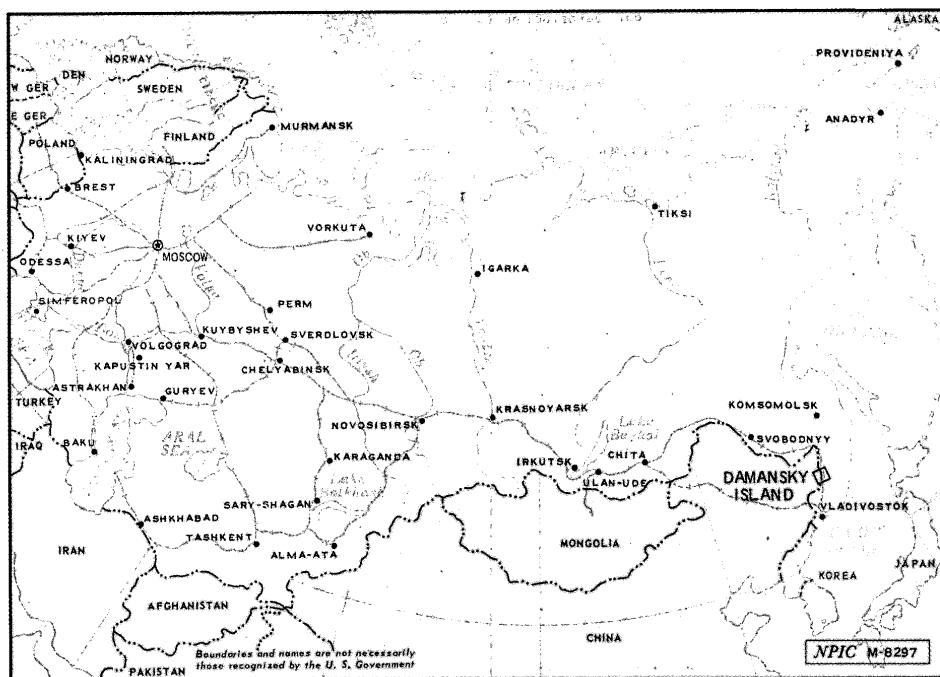


FIGURE 1. GENERAL LOCATION MAP

- 1 -

TOP SECRET RUFF

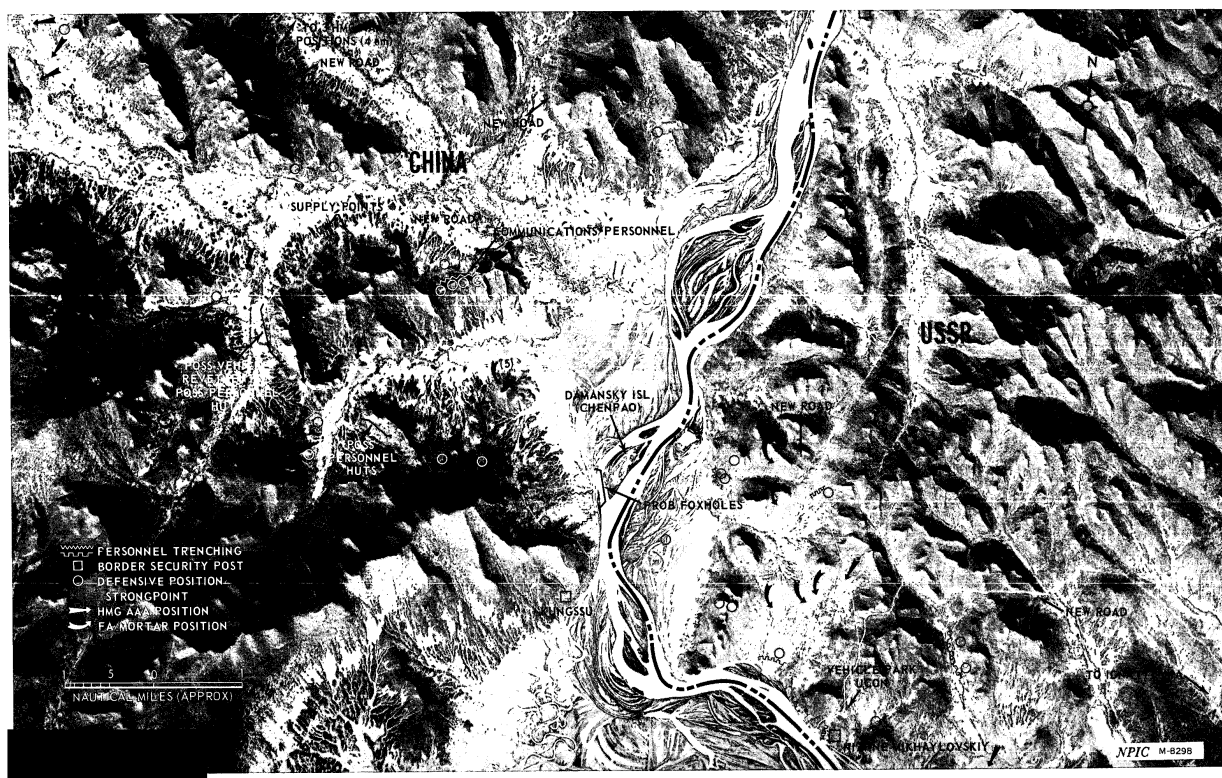


FIGURE 2. MILITARY ACTIVITY, DAMANSKY (CHENPAO) ISLAND SKIRMISH AREA, SINO-SOVIET BORDER

TOP SECRET RUFF

Handle Via
Talent/KEYMOLE
Control System Only

Handle Via
Talent/KEYMOLE
Control System Only

TOP SECRET RUFF

TCSS-20037/70

CHINESE DEVELOPMENTS (FIGURE 2)

Strongpoints have been constructed and trenches have been dug in the hills to the west overlooking the clash area. Heavy machinegun (HMG) AAA positions, defensive lines, mortar positions, possible vehicle revetments, and new roads have been built in an area covering approximately nine square nautical miles (nm) just west of the island. At least nine HMG AAA positions are observed, three of which are located about 8.5 nm northwest of Kungssu border security post (46-27-30N 133-50-10E).

A defensive line and strongpoints are observed along the ridge of a large hill, located 3.8 nm north-northwest of the Kungssu border security post. A communications/personnel trench with probable revetments is located just north of and behind the ridge. Two HMG AAA positions are also observed on the southwestern base of the hill. Several supply points are seen along the new roads that serve the defensive positions in the general area.

In addition, the Chinese have constructed five large military tent camps in the vicinity of the clash area (Figure 3). Two of these camps are located 17.5 nm north-northwest of Damansky Island and eight nm west of Jaoho border security post (46-47-40N 134-01-30E). Two other tent camps are approximately 26 nm northwest of Damansky Island. The fifth camp is approximately 11 nm northwest of Jaoho. There are about 290 small pyramidal tents at the five large camps. About 25 tents are visible in four smaller camps located in the general area.

TOP SECRET RUFF

TCS-20037/70

SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS

Immediate Soviet reaction to these skirmishes was the deployment of armor, artillery, and infantry. These forces constructed defensive positions within a 5-nm radius of Damansky Island along the commanding ridge lines, along the tree lines above the flood plain, and across certain avenues of approach (Figure 2). Five field artillery or mortar positions were emplaced in defilade and two HMG AAA emplacements were prepared. The existing road connecting the river villages and border security posts appears to have been improved, and several new side roads have been constructed leading from the old road in the skirmish area. A new probable vehicle storage shed and vehicle park are under construction in an area immediately north of the border security post at Nizhne-Mikhaylovskiy.

25X1D Three new SAM sites have been constructed near Lastochka Airfield, 11.5 nm southeast of Damansky Island (Figure 3). These sites, two SA-2 and one SA-3, were unoccupied as of [REDACTED] Lastochka Airfield, although presently inactive, could be utilized as a contingency airfield to support ground activity in the Damansky Island area. To date, no aircraft have been observed at this airfield.

Soviet ground forces strength along the Ussuri River border area from Lermontovka to Lesozavodsk presently consists of five tank regiments, five motorized (MTZ) rifle regiments, two artillery regiments, river crossing units, and normal support units. Soviet ground forces strength at Lermontovka and Bikin is shown on Figure 3. Soviet ground forces strength from Bikin to Lesozavodsk is composed of two tank regiments, four motorized rifle regiments, one artillery regiment, and support units (not shown on graphic). Excellent road and rail facilities provide a rapid means for deployment of Soviet troops and equipment to any trouble spot in the general area. The two tactical air regiments at Verino, 90 nm northeast of Damansky Island, could provide air support for any border incident in the Ussuri area.

NPIC Project 111108NF

TOP SECRET RUFF

TOP SECRET RUFF

TCS-20037/70

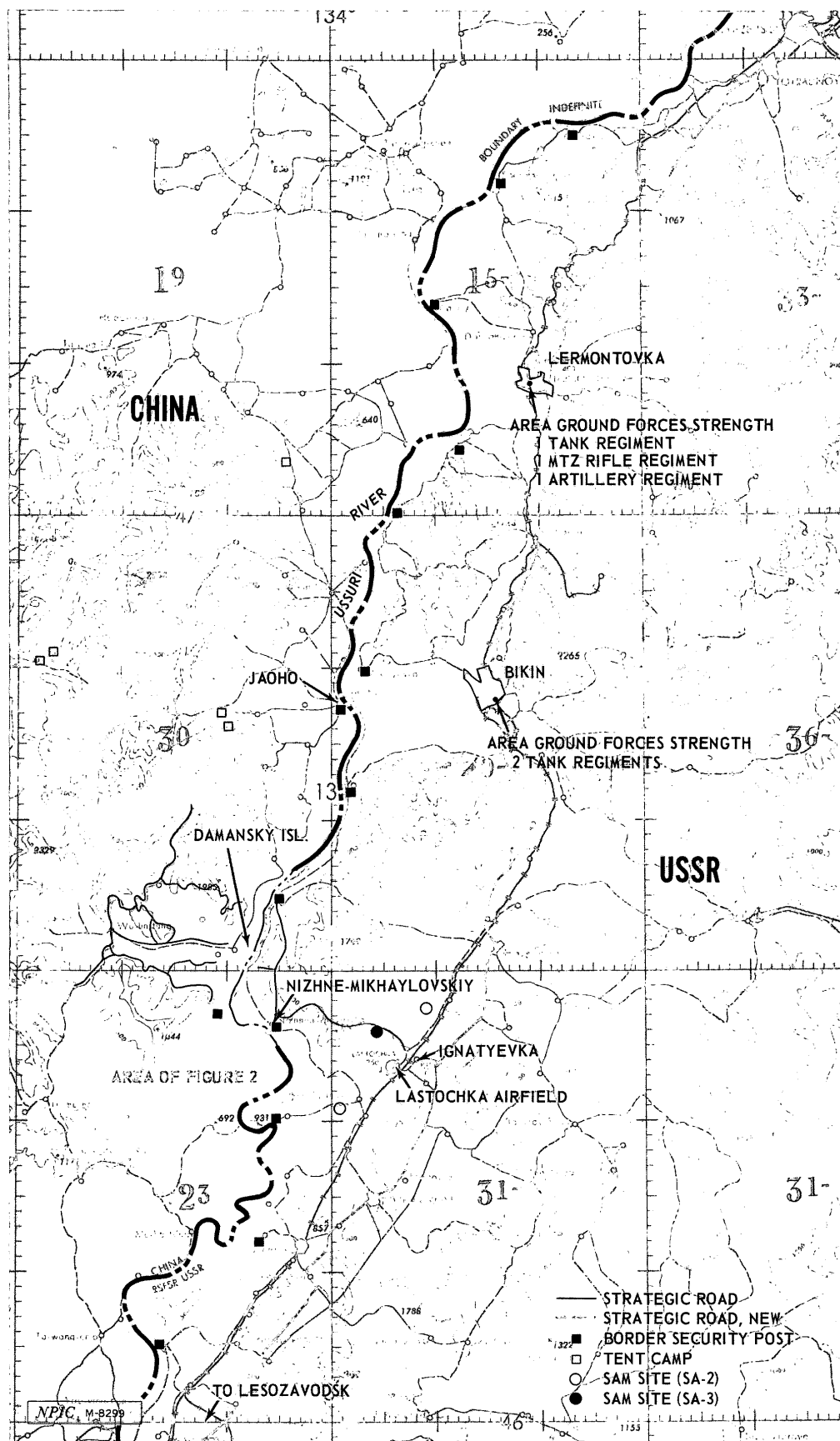


FIGURE 3. MILITARY ACTIVITY, DAMANSKY (CHENPAO) ISLAND SKIRMISH AREA, SINO-SOVIET BORDER

TOP SECRET RUFF

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET